

MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 21, 2009

The Caswell County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at the Historic Courthouse in Yanceyville, North Carolina at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, September 21, 2009. Members present: Jeremiah Jefferies, Chairman, George W. Ward, Jr., Vice-Chairman, Erik D. Battle, William E. Carter, Nathaniel Hall, Gordon G. Satterfield, and Kenneth D. Travis. Also present: Kevin B. Howard, County Manager and Angela Evans representing The Caswell Messenger. Wanda P. Smith, Clerk to the Board, recorded the minutes.

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

Chairman Jefferies opened the meeting with a Moment of Silent Prayer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Ward requested that Item No. 10, Liquor by the Drink and Item No. 12.D., Request to Lift Hiring Freeze for Maintenance Director be removed from the agenda and placed on the October 5, 2009 agenda.

Mr. Kevin Howard, County Manager, requested that Item No. 9, Caswell County Industrial Revolving Loan Subcommittee be removed from the agenda.

Commissioner Ward moved, seconded by Commissioner Travis to approve the agenda as presented, with the deletions as noted. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Travis moved, seconded by Commissioner Ward to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

The following items were included on the Consent Agenda:

- 1) Approval of Minutes of June 15, 2009 Regular Meeting
- 2) Tax Director's Monthly Report for August, 2009

Total Amount of Taxes Collected for August, 2009	\$252,247.74
2009 Prepayments	\$ 24,259.51
Tax Maps/Cards	\$ 69.25
County Maps	\$ 19.80
Beer License	\$ 35.00
Wine License	\$ 50.00
- 3) Financial Report – July 1, 2009 – July 30, 2009

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Jefferies opened the floor for public comments.

There were no public comments made.

REQUEST BY PIEDMONT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Ms. Doris Carver, Vice-President, Continuing Education, Piedmont Community College, came before the Board to present a request from Piedmont Community College for funding to lease facility space for the Law Enforcement Continuing Education curriculum. Dr. Walter Bartlett, President, Piedmont Community College, Mr. Lee Tate, Coordinator, PCC Criminal Justice Program, and Ms. Gail Stilwell and Mr. Arnold Rogers, PCC Board of Trustees members were also present.

Ms. Carver stated that Piedmont Community College has had to move its training program for law enforcement, fire, and emergency services out of the Yanceyville Municipal Services Building due to funding. Ms. Carver added that currently they are located in the Southern Caswell Ruritan Building in the Anderson community on a temporary basis, but it is imperative in order to keep this program going that they find suitable space. Ms. Carver stated that because of the move, this summer they experienced a 42% drop in enrollment in this program. Ms. Carver added that they do understand the financial burden that Caswell County is under with the current economic conditions, and they have been working diligently to visit sites and find viable sites that are affordable and the best value to meet their needs. Ms. Carver reported that the Old Ford Building located on NC Hwy 86 appears to be such a building, and noted that it has 2,500 square feet. Ms. Carver stated that this would allow PCC to offer the training that they have in the past. Ms. Carver added that they do expect to see a large influx of more law enforcement training as another prison comes on line. Ms. Carver informed the Board that they currently serve over 2,000 law enforcement personnel annually in Caswell County and with it being a regional program, draws from several counties. Ms. Carver noted that it is estimated that just in food revenues, this brings in to Caswell County over \$100,000. Ms. Carver stated that they feel that PCC is trying to help Caswell County with economic development and bringing people into the community.

Ms. Carver stated that it is very convenient for the Dan River Prison Work Farm and Caswell County Corrections personnel to train in Caswell County and noted that they are required to complete a lot of training during the year and being able to stay in the County is a significant savings to them. Ms. Carver added that they also conduct a lot of training for EMS, Rescue Squads, and Fire Departments and this enables them to stay in the County, as well as it being a huge benefit for networking.

Ms. Carver reported that PCC works with a large number of agencies and the visibility of so many law enforcement vehicles in the County serves as a deterrent to crimes. Ms. Carver stated that this program is also a huge investment of PCC funding for the County, and also for local business owners and their success, as well as generating sales taxes, property taxes, and income taxes.

Ms. Carver informed the Board that PCC is also looking into developing a Basic Law Enforcement Training Program, which would be a two-year degree program and they currently cannot do this with the present facility space.

Ms. Carver reported that PCC plans to expend \$270,000 in start-up costs for equipment and staffing to relocate and continue to offer this training. Ms. Carver stated that after the first year, PCC plans to contribute approximately \$180,000 annually for training, which includes staffing and training materials.

Ms. Carver presented two options to the Board for consideration of possible facility space for the Law Enforcement training. Ms. Carver stated that the first option is to rent 2,500 sq. ft. of space at a cost of \$1,600 per month which amounts to \$7.68 per sq. ft. Ms. Carver added that Mr. Richie Brackin, owner of the facility is present, and he would need about two months to upfit the building and he would be responsible for installing the walls, doors, bathrooms, ceiling, lighting, and everything necessary for them to use the facility.

Ms. Carver informed the Board that rent for the first year would be approximately \$11,200 and added that the College has set aside some non-State money and the College would pay the cost of utilities through June 30, 2010. Ms. Carver noted that the cost of the water is included in the rent. Ms. Carver reported that the cost of rent for years two and three would be \$19,200 plus utilities, which should be approximately \$100 - \$200 per month.

Ms. Carver reported that option two includes renting two spaces which would provide 5,000 sq. ft. for \$800 more, which amounts to a monthly cost of \$2,400, or \$5.76 per sq. ft. Ms. Carver stated that under this option the first year would cost \$16,800 in rent with no utilities, and the second and third years would be \$28,800 plus utilities. Ms. Carver reported that in option one, for every dollar that the County contributes in year one, the College would contribute \$24, in year two, for every dollar that the County contributes, the College would contribute \$14. Ms. Carver added that for option two, in year one for every dollar that the County contributes, the College would contribute \$16, and for years two and three every dollar that the County contributes, the College would contribute \$6.25.

Ms. Carver stated that the College recognizes that this is a wonderful opportunity for economic advancement for the community.

Upon questioning from Commissioner Carter, Ms. Carver answered that if the College went with option two, they would like to move the Job Link Career Center out of the campus and into some of that space. Ms. Carver stated that the County's unemployment rate is approaching 15% and there are about 2,000 hits per month in the Job Link Career Center. Ms. Carver stated that PCC also could move the Business Development Economic Entrepreneurship Center into this space.

Commissioner Ward questioned whether a user fee could be charged to the groups in other counties that will be using the facility. Ms. Carver answered that this would be a student fee and the College Board has elected not to charge student fees and if they implement a student fee, it would have to be applicable to all students and not just to one location.

Upon questioning from Commissioner Ward as to what was approved in the budget, Mr. Howard answered that PCC submitted a request for \$9,600 for facility costs and the County appropriated \$4,800 for PCC to help pay for utility costs at the Yanceyville Municipal Building, which was their training center location.

Upon questioning from Mr. Howard, Ms. Carver answered that they could be ready for the lease of the proposed facility by December, 2009.

After further discussion, Commissioner Carter moved to approve funding in the amount of \$11,200 to pay the cost of rent for the first year for Piedmont Community College to hold its Law Enforcement training in the facility as presented. The motion died for lack of a second.

Commissioner Hall stated that there was no doubt in his mind that Piedmont Community College's request is worthy of consideration, but felt that the Board needed to conduct some research first.

Commissioner Ward stated that he would like to have the County Manager contact Senator Foriest and Representative Faison to see if they could identify funding to assist Piedmont Community College with this request and then have this issue discussed again at the Board's October 19th meeting.

Chairman Jefferies informed Ms. Carver that this issue would be placed on the Board's October 19, 2009 agenda for further discussion.

CDOT

Ms. Melissa Williamson, Director, Caswell Division of Transportation, came before the Board to request release of a full-time and two part-time driver positions from the hiring freeze. Ms. Williamson informed the Board that these positions are already budgeted in the current fiscal year.

Upon questioning from Commissioner Travis, Ms. Williamson answered that this does not involve any County dollars.

After discussion, Commissioner Ward moved, seconded by Chairman Jefferies to approve the release of one full-time and two part-time driver positions for the Caswell Division of Transportation from the hiring freeze. The motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 4

Mr. Kevin Howard, County Manager, presented and discussed Budget Amendment No. 4 for Fiscal Year 2009-2010. After discussion, Commissioner Ward moved, seconded by Commissioner Travis to approve Budget Amendment No. 4 for Fiscal Year 2009-2010 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

PARKING FOR JURORS AT COURTHOUSE

Mr. Kevin Howard, County Manager, reported that he has discussed the parking situation for jurors at the Courthouse on East Church Street with Mr. John Satterfield, Clerk of Superior Court. Mr. Howard stated that he suggested designating 12 spaces for jurors and Mr. Satterfield felt that 12 spaces would not be enough to mitigate the parking problems that they are having. Mr. Howard added that Mr. Satterfield felt that in order to solve the problem that 60 spaces needed to be designated on the days that the jury is called for selection.

Mr. Howard informed the Board that two spaces have been reserved for law enforcement vehicles only to alleviate the parking on sidewalks by law enforcement personnel. Mr. Howard stated that Mr. Satterfield felt that this was occurring when law enforcement officers were bringing someone to the Magistrate's Office and could be corrected by providing spaces for law enforcement vehicles for use of the Magistrate's office only.

Chairman Jefferies questioned whether a sticker could be placed on a juror's windshield until the jury has been selected. Mr. Howard stated that when jurors receive their letters they are informed that there is limited parking and told where there is available parking.

Commissioner Hall stated that he would not have brought a request for 60 designated parking spaces before the Board and added that he would not vote to give parking spaces so everyone can park at the front door. Commissioner Hall added that there is a large parking lot below Yanceyville Town Hall and, at the maximum, it is only a two minute walk.

There was no action taken by the Board.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Kevin Howard, County Manager, reported that the UNC Center for Competitive Economies will provide an economic assessment for Caswell County. Mr. Howard stated that this "economic reality check" will utilize economic and demographic trend data to highlight the weaknesses and challenges present in the local economy while simultaneously identifying strengths in the County and potential areas for future economic development opportunities. Mr. Howard added that the assessment will be conducted by Mr. G. Jason Jolley, Senior Research Director for the Carolina Center for Competitive Economies and Adjunct Assistant Professor for the Kenan-Flagler Business School at UNC-Chapel Hill, and will be provided at no cost to the County as part of the Campus Community Partnership.

Mr. Howard presented five professional service contracts for the Gunn Memorial Public Library for various programs to be held at the Library. After discussion, Commissioner Ward moved, seconded by Commissioner Travis to approve the five professional service contracts for programs to be presented at the Gunn Memorial Public Library, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Howard presented a request from Ms. Kathy Upchurch, Library Director to release the Library Administrative position from the hiring freeze. Mr. Howard noted that the position is

paid from State funds. After discussion, Commissioner Ward moved, seconded by Commissioner Carter to release the Library Administrative position for the Gunn Memorial Public Library from the hiring freeze. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Howard reported that Ms. Donna Pointer, Aging Services Director, has informed him that the Caswell County Senior Center Project will be receiving funds in the amount of \$12,105 from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for the Meals on Wheels and Congregate Meals Programs. Commissioner Travis moved, seconded by Chairman Jefferies to accept funding in the amount of \$12,105 from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for the Meals on Wheels and Congregate Meals Programs. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hall stated that the Piedmont Triad Council of Governments was advised that these funds would be forthcoming and that it could be used for these purposes, but noted that the only concern they had was that these are only one-time funds. Commissioner Hall added that meals could be increased, but at the end of the year the number will have to be reduced to the original number.

Mr. Howard reported that the Caswell County Senior Center Project has been completed and the final payment has been issued to the contractor. Mr. Howard stated that there is funding in the amount of approximately \$51,000 left for the project which will have to be spent by December 31, 2009.

Mr. Howard reported that he and Sheriff Welch are meeting with Moseley Architects to review a draft of their proposal for the County Detention Center on September 25, 2009. Mr. Howard added that they will be making a presentation to the Board in the near future.

Commissioner Ward questioned whether the County Manager has gone out to Matkins Meat Processors and talked with the management concerning the Golden Leaf Grant. Commissioner Ward suggested that he, along with the County Manager and Cooperative Extension Service Director make a visit to the facility. Upon questioning from Commissioner Ward as to whether all of the Golden Leaf Grant funds have been spent, Mr. Howard answered that all funding has not been spent.

Mr. Howard questioned whether the Board still has an interest in moving forward with discussions on zoning for the County and if they would like someone to come to a Board meeting and explain the process. Commissioner Ward suggested that an item be added to the next agenda to discuss the Board Retreat issues. The Board was agreeable with this.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Jefferies reported that an incinerator has been put in on Collie Road where a subdivision of 15 houses is located. Chairman Jefferies requested that the County Manager look into this issue and determine if approval by the County was required.

Upon questioning from Commissioner Travis as to who cleaned the Courtroom ceiling, Mr. Howard answered that the ceiling was cleaned by Community Service Workers. Chairman

Jefferies instructed the County Manager to send letters to the workers and commend them for their work.

Commissioner Travis reported that the Farmer Lake Board met recently and they will be presenting a proposal to the Board of Commissioners on lake hours and other issues.

Commissioner Hall announced that the Committee working on the Appreciation Program for Mr. Travis Williamson has been meeting and a tentative date has been scheduled for November 4, 2009, from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. at the Civic Center. Commissioner Hall noted that some financial support will be needed and requested that this item be placed on the Board's next agenda. Chairman Jefferies was agreeable to this.

Commissioner Carter reported that he attended a recent Library Board meeting and State funding for the Library was discussed.

Commissioner Carter reported that a representative from the NC Department of Environmental and Natural Resources will be coming to the County on Tuesday to conduct water sampling of the water system at the Pelham Industrial Park.

Commissioner Carter announced that the Annual Bright Leaf Hoedown will be held on Saturday, September 26, 2009, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Ms. Wanda P. Smith, Clerk to the Board, confirmed that the Farm Bureau Board of Directors will host a dinner meeting with the Board of Commissioners on Monday, September 28, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. at the Caswell County Farm Bureau Office.

THE ADJOURMENT

At 7:15 p.m. Commissioner Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Travis to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Wanda P. Smith
Clerk to the Board

Jeremiah Jefferies
Chairman
